



ANNUAL REPORT 2022

DELIVERED **AS** PROMISED

ROBERT W. PLASTER
ADVANCED MANUFACTURING

OZARKS TECHNICAL
COMMUNITY COLLEGE



*Don't be afraid
to celebrate a
promise when
kept. In doing so,
you're embracing
the potential for a
better world."*

— Unknown

That quote by an unknown author captures the spirit you will find in the pages of Ozarks Technical Community College's 2022 Annual Report.

"Delivered as Promised" is the theme for this year's issue, and the commitments the college fulfilled will make the Ozarks a better place. OTC strives to keep its promises to students by providing high-quality, low-cost education in communities throughout southwest Missouri.

The largest and most impactful promise the college fulfilled in 2022 was the opening of the Robert W. Plaster Center for Advanced Manufacturing. The \$40 million, 120,000-square-foot facility is the first industrial training facility of its kind in the state. Inside the walls of the Plaster Manufacturing Center, students learn subjects such as automation and robotics, cybersecurity and mechatronics. They are gaining the skills and knowledge necessary to thrive in the 21st-century economy.

We hope you enjoy the imagery and words in this year's Annual Report, which celebrates keeping promises.

OZARKS TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE





MESSAGE FROM THE CHANCELLOR

Every year as I write this letter, I am reminded of how fortunate I am to serve as Chancellor for OTC. I reflect on the remarkable things accomplished in the previous year and am gratified for the opportunity to be part of the life-changing work taking place. This year is no different, and you don't need to look far for reminders of why the theme of this year's annual report is *Delivered as Promised*.

Facing west across the re-fashioned student plaza, you see the spectacular new Robert W. Plaster Center for Advanced Manufacturing, open and alive with students and industry partners. Stepping into our hallways and classrooms, you witness students engaged in activities and training in state-of-the-art labs and studios. On every campus and center, in every building, and even virtually, college navigators are working one-on-one with students to eliminate barriers and chart paths to successful education and careers. At one point, these were all just ideas. Today, they are in place and already making an impact.

The following pages also tell the story of progress occurring every day in less visible but crucial ways. This progress happens when we partner with our local companies to create specialized training and apprenticeship opportunities. It continues when our technical and health sciences programs attract students and launch workers into lucrative careers. It is even further demonstrated when we provide a world-class education for students who know they want to one day transfer to a university. All this work is in partnership with you — our supporters — and our community, whose belief in us time and again allows us to fulfill our mission.

One thing I have learned is that change is the only constant and preparation pays dividends. As we move into 2023, we are building the new five-year Strategic Plan for the college which will guide the direction of the institution and allow us to continue delivering on our promises.

Thank you for your ideas and your support. As I always say, the best is yet to come.

Thank you.

Dr. Hal L. Higdon,
Chancellor, Ozarks Technical Community College

MISSION STATEMENT

The college mission is to provide accessible, high quality and affordable learning opportunities that transform lives and strengthen the communities we serve.

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BY THE NUMBERS

Eagle BREAKFAST

In the spring semester of 2021, OTC debuted a program at the Springfield campus to offer a free Eagle Breakfast to any student who wanted one. That pilot was so successful in improving student outcomes that we expanded the program to all OTC locations in the fall of 2021. Now, anyone with a valid student I.D. may have an Eagle Breakfast, no questions asked.

DURING THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR, EAGLE BREAKFAST SERVED:

2,640
individual students

99
student veterans

1,048
Pell Grant recipients*



Participants received an average of

17

EAGLE BREAKFAST MEALS



54% of Eagle Breakfast students were male



55% plan to transfer to a four-year college or university



Full-time students make up

56% of all Eagle Breakfast recipients



68% work full- or part-time



90%

of Eagle Breakfast students completed their courses, compared to 81% of those who did not participate



85%

of Eagle Breakfast students achieved a C or better in their classes, compared to 80% of those who did not participate in the program



*Pell grants are federal financial aid for the country's most under-resourced students.

22 YEAR IN REVIEW

January 8

EXPANDED NURSING AND RESPIRATORY THERAPY PROGRAMS

OTC introduced new pathways and degree programs for nurses and respiratory therapists, which will lead to 70-80 new healthcare graduates annually.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, respiratory therapists were instrumental in saving lives as the medical practitioners who helped patients breathe. The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that the United States will need more than one million new nurses to keep up with demand and retirements to avoid a nursing shortage.

"We have seen the need within our community, and OTC has responded by expanding the college's capacity to graduate more students with these essential skills," said Dr. Aaron Light, OTC dean of health sciences.

February 15

CELEBRATING OTC NIGHT AT MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY

Missouri State University is the top transfer destination for OTC students. The two colleges carried on a tradition of collaboration for the annual OTC night at the MSU Bears basketball game. OTC students, employees and alumni enjoyed a Bears victory over Indiana State.



February 28

TWO EAGLES ATTEND MISSOURI GOVERNOR'S STUDENT LEADERSHIP FORUM

Stevi Kay Berry and Samuel Boggs represented OTC during the 37th annual Missouri Governor's Student Leadership Forum on Faith and Values.

The forum challenged students' character development by encouraging them to reflect on their decision-making skills, values and belief systems. They also visited the Governor's office for a meet and greet and message from Governor Mike Parson.

February 28

BURRELL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PARTNERSHIP STRENGTHENS

According to the Missouri Institute of Mental Health, one person dies from suicide every eight hours. OTC implemented Burrell Behavioral Health's ONE Pledge to promote suicide prevention awareness and education to prevent loss of life among the communities we serve.

The ONE program at OTC offers professional development and engagement opportunities to educate employees about suicide prevention.

February 24

INNOVATION CELEBRATION FOCUSES ON STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Creating opportunities for student success was the theme for OTC's third annual Innovation Celebration. The festive event saluting the college's culture of invention and reinvention was live-streamed from Springfield's White River Conference Center.

Six employees earned Trailblazer Awards from their colleagues. On the faculty side, employees honored Jim Bridwell, Heather Eberlin and Danelle Maxwell. Staff members Chelsea Foresee, Amy Schneider and Raymond Wade also earned Trailblazer Awards.

The college funded six initiatives with Game Changer grants, including a new jazz band, a student lounge space and enhanced lactation rooms.



'22 YEAR IN REVIEW



March 3

AMAZON SELECTS OTC FOR CAREER CHOICE PROGRAM

OTC will provide Amazon's hourly employees access to all of the college's academic concentrations through Amazon's Career Choice program. Amazon employees can pursue one of OTC's more than 40 degree programs.

March 15

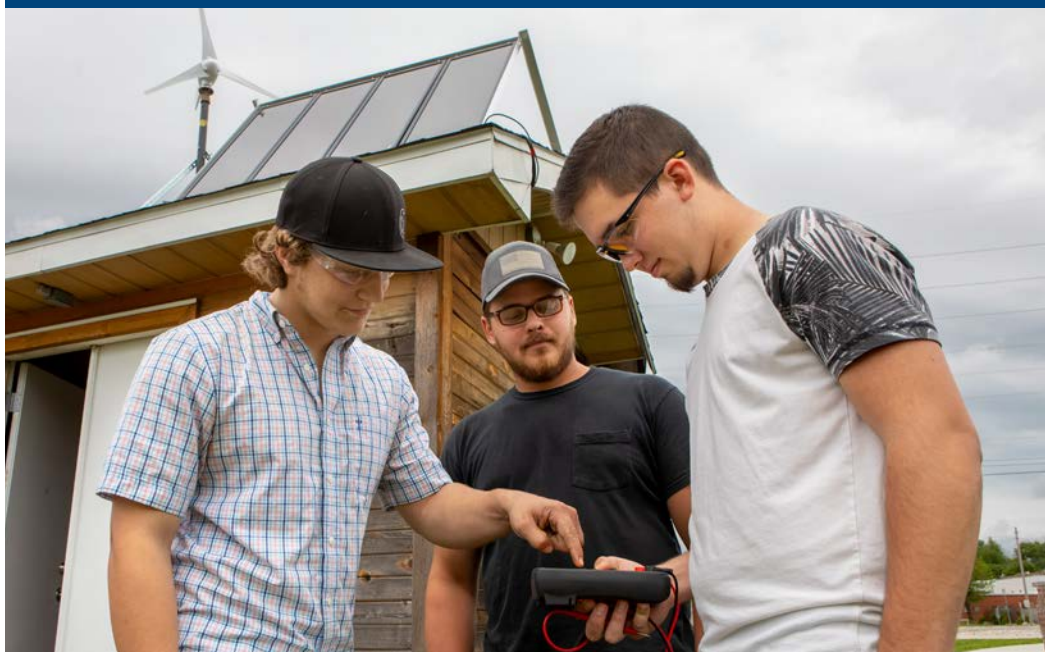
HONORS STUDENTS WORK ON FILM SET IN THE OZARKS

The term "the movie industry" may bring images of Hollywood glamour to mind, but for the dozen OTC Honors students who worked on the set of the film "Reveille" in March, it was anything but glamorous. Shot over two weeks near Sparta, Missouri, "Reveille" tells the story of an encounter between German and American soldiers in Italy during World War II.

"I was holding a reflector to help light the actors, and I did a lot of takedown and setup," said student Tyler Lawson. "I just did whatever they needed."

Tyler worked behind the scenes, but even a student on camera found the work to be physically challenging. "The producers asked me to come in early to do a 'tech thing,' and I thought, 'Oh cool, I'll get to build something,'" student actor Noah Duwe said with a laugh. "I ended up digging holes for eight hours."

While working on "Reveille" was short on Hollywood glitz, the students gained valuable knowledge and connections to help them once their careers begin.



March 28

ALTERNATIVE ENERGY COURSE DESIGNED FOR A GROWING INDUSTRY

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, some of the fastest-growing jobs in the United States are for technicians installing, maintaining and repairing wind and solar equipment. OTC's Alternative and Renewable Energy course in the Electrical Trades program trains students to work with wind, solar and other forms of renewable energy.

"Students love this class, and I hope to expand on what we do," said Gary Lumley, electrical trades instructor. "It's definitely hands-on. The students dig trenches, pour concrete, mount solar panels and a wind turbine, and they monitor and maintain the whole system."

Currently, the system involves a wind turbine, two photovoltaic solar panels and two batteries, which power four LED lights along the Ozark Greenways trail on the west end of the OTC Springfield Campus.

March 21

STUDENT NAMED 2022 NEW CENTURY WORKFORCE SCHOLAR



OTC student Crystal Brinell was named a 2022 New Century Workforce Scholar and received a \$1,250 scholarship. This scholarship is the first to support students at associate degree-granting institutions. The Coca-Cola Foundation and Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society sponsor the program.

April 7

NEW EDUCATION DEGREE TO HELP ALLEVIATE TEACHER SHORTAGE

OTC updated its teaching degree path to help alleviate the teacher shortage in Missouri by removing barriers and increasing accessibility for more students.

"Even before the coronavirus, we needed more teachers in the state, and the pandemic accelerated the number of resignations and retirements," said Angela Miller, OTC department chair of teacher education. "The changes we've made allow more students the opportunity to follow their passion and pursue a career in the classroom."

The new degree is the Associate of Arts in Teacher Education (AA.TED). The AA.TED is designed for students who plan to transfer to a four-year institution to complete a

bachelor's degree and eventually become K-12 teachers.

Additionally, the introductory course for the AA.TED is certified by the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education as substitute teacher training. Students who complete that initial course are qualified to substitute teach, giving them valuable time in the classroom while pursuing their education.



April 6

DONOR RECEPTION BRINGS TOGETHER STUDENTS AND BENEFACTORS

After a two-year hiatus, the OTC Foundation Donor Reception returned in 2022. The event at The Old Glass Place in Springfield allowed scholarship recipients to meet and socialize with donors. The OTC Foundation awards over \$500,000 in scholarships annually, thanks to the generous support of donors.



April 8

HELPING STUDENTS DRESS FOR SUCCESS

OTC students who needed a professional clothing upgrade received a hand from the college's faculty and staff. Employees donated new and gently used clothing for the "Dress for Success" event, and students selected what they needed free of charge.

April 20

MATH INSTRUCTOR HONORED FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE

OTC Mathematics Instructor Melissa Wittmer earned the "Teaching Excellence Award" from the Missouri Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges. Wittmer



has been a full-time mathematics instructor at OTC since 2012.

Before joining OTC full-time, she taught mathematics at Parkview High School in Springfield.

Wittmer developed a website called "Math with Melissa," which provides math instruction for students and resources for teachers. During the COVID-19 pandemic, "Math with Melissa" became a valuable tool for all OTC math students and their instructors.



April 27

PARTNERING WITH COXHEALTH FOR EMT APPRENTICESHIPS

To meet the demand for Certified Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs), OTC and CoxHealth united to offer the community EMT apprenticeships. Students receive the instruction and training free of charge, get paid an hourly wage as CoxHealth employees during the apprenticeship and those who satisfactorily complete the program are guaranteed employment.

April 28

STUDENTS HONORED FOR LEADERSHIP, ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Five OTC students were honored at the Missouri Community College Association (MCCA) Student Leadership and Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Awards Luncheon.

OTC Table Rock student Conner Wilkinson earned the MCCA Student Leadership Award, which is presented annually to one exceptional student leader at each of Missouri's 12 community colleges. Students Stevi Kay Berry and Crystal Brinnell were named to the PTK All-Missouri First Team. And students Brandy Koke-Boomgarn and Devon Dembinski made the PTK All-Missouri Second Team.

MCCA is the advocacy group for the state's community colleges. PTK is the largest international honor society for students at two-year colleges.

May 2

STUDENT WINS PRESTIGIOUS ADDY AWARD

Graphic design is no longer solely the domain of students at four-year colleges. OTC student Danielle Hartzler won a silver medal from the American Advertising Federation's Heartland Addy Awards. She won for logo design. "I was trying to find something the market wasn't saturated with, so I targeted a female audience," Danielle said. "It was the best learning experience I've had. It felt authentic."

Danielle knows about learning experiences. She's had several of them. While many students would earn an associate degree before transferring to a four-year college to earn a bachelor's degree, Danielle earned her bachelor of fine arts at Evangel University before coming to OTC to study graphic design.



April 22

STUDENTS ENJOY THE SUNSHINE AT SPRING PICNICS

The dance floor was as hot as the grills as students and employees enjoyed the semi-annual spring picnics across the OTC system. The popular event allows picnic-goers to take a break from the classroom to socialize, play games and win prizes.



April 28

HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY GRADUATES HONORED

Forty-six graduates received their High School Equivalency diplomas in a ceremony at the historic Gillioz Theatre, cheered on by family, friends, faculty and staff from OTC's Adult Education and Literacy program.

May 4

STUDENT LANDS DREAM JOB WITH ST. LOUIS BLUES

Kennett native Drew Porterfield grew up a St. Louis Blues fan. A few days after he graduated from OTC, he began a summer internship with the 2019 Stanley Cup champions.

"I used to tell my family and friends, 'I'm going to work for the Blues someday,'" Drew said. "It's been a goal since I started doing this."

Even better, following his internship, the Blues hired Drew full-time.



May 10

CROWDS ATTEND FIRST-EVER LINeworker RODEO

OTC Electrical Distribution Systems students from the Lebanon center and Richwood Valley campus competed in the college's first-ever lineworker rodeo. The event featured pole-top rescue competitions, obstacle climbs and single-phase line build competitions.

Professionals from Ozark Electric Co-op and Laclede Electric Co-op served as judges.

OTC debuted the lineworker program at the Lebanon center in the fall of 2018. Student demand for the program was so great that the college expanded the program to the Richwood Valley campus in the fall of 2021.



May 8

NELLIE BIRTHS AGRICULTURE PROGRAM'S FIRST CALF

Otis is the first calf birthed in the college's Agriculture Program at the Richwood Valley campus. Students helped care for him and his mother, Nellie, throughout the pregnancy and continue caring for the farm animals.



May 9

SEMESTER CLOSES WITH SPRING FLING AND STUDENT ART SHOWCASE

On the last Friday evening before finals, the Springfield campus hosted a Spring Fling dance in the Jared Family Atrium. Students from across the OTC system enjoyed the party. At the same time, in Lincoln Hall, several of the college's art, film, music and theatre students showed off their talents at the Fine Arts Student Performance Showcase.



May 18

RURAL SENIORS GET HELP WITH POST-GRADUATION PLANS

Byron Trott founded rootEd to help students from rural high schools determine a path following graduation. At Hollister High School's "Decision Day," an event at which about 120 graduating high school seniors publicly announced their plans after high school, Trott awarded five seniors \$20,000 scholarships and \$1,000 to all other graduating seniors. OTC is rootEd's Missouri partner.

Missouri Lt. Gov. Mike Kehoe and Commissioner of Education Margie Vandeven were among the leaders who attended the event, along with families, educators and community members. They celebrated students' achievements and emphasized the importance of ensuring every student graduates with a firm plan for success.

"Every high school senior should graduate with a clear path forward – and they deserve our support along the way. In doing so, we are not just supporting the individuals; we are benefiting families, communities and the entire state," Lt. Gov. Kehoe said.

In the fall of 2021, the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education committed to building on rootEd Missouri's foundation of success by expanding the program. Under a grant program known as the Missouri Postsecondary Advising Initiative, rootEd Missouri will place advisors in at least 135 schools over three years.

May 13

BREAKING TRADITIONS AWARD GOES TO DRAFTING STUDENT

When Sariah Reed picked up a torch and chose to study welding at OTC, some of her family members asked her why she wanted to do "a man's work." But Sariah didn't see it that way.

"It's not about being a different gender; it's about your knowledge and skill in doing the work," Sariah said.

Sariah went to Missouri State out of high school, but after a year, she found herself at OTC, using her A+ to study welding.

"It was very intimidating walking into the shop," she said. "My only 'manly' experience was visiting my dad's farm."

With the work ethic she acquired on her dad's farm and an intellect that earned her a 4.2-grade point average in high school, Sariah excelled at welding and was hired full-time at Paul Mueller in the fall of 2021. Sariah fabricates tanks for the dairy industry. Driven and ambitious, Sariah plans to become a designer at Paul Mueller; that's why she returned to OTC for a degree in another male-dominated field — drafting and design.

Eighty percent of drafting and design professionals are men, but Sariah is OTC's latest Breaking Traditions Award winner, thanks to her desire to pursue a non-traditional career. Besides the honor, Sariah received a \$2,000 scholarship for the 2022-23 academic year.

"It was very cool to have that little spark of importance and find out that someone is proud of me for doing this kind of work."

"Sariah is one of a few women in our drafting

courses, but it doesn't seem to faze her," said Rene Wade, drafting and design department chair. "She excelled in the welding program and, judging by her success in drafting, she will overcome any obstacles with flying colors."

When she completes her drafting and design

studies and eventually moves up to become a designer, Sariah says she'll continue welding in her free time.

"It's very therapeutic. I just put my hood down, and I can't see or hear anything," Sariah said. "I'm a perfectionist, and I just try to be as perfect as possible."



It was very cool to have that little spark of importance and find out that someone is proud of me for doing this kind of work."

May 19

OTC CONFERS 2,466 DEGREES AND CERTIFICATES AT 2022 COMMENCEMENT

More than 700 OTC graduates walked in the 2022 Commencement Ceremony at Great Southern Bank Arena on the Missouri State University campus.

The Founder and CEO of SRC Holdings, Jack Stack, delivered the commencement address to the graduates. "Enjoy this day before you and celebrate," Stack said. "As a wise writer once said, 'If the purpose of life is to discover your gift, the meaning of life is to give that gift away.'"

OTC's 2022 Distinguished Alumnus was 2001 graduate Brett Magers, president of Legacy Bank and Trust. Graduate Billy Dudley represented his peers as the student speaker. Billy is pursuing a degree in the Education of Deaf and Hard of Hearing at Missouri State University.



June 17

HOMESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE DEBUTS

Nearly 80 homeschool students and their families attended the Homeschool Open House on the Springfield campus. The evening included speakers and friendly experts to answer questions about OTC options for combined high school and college credits, financial aid and programs to boost student success.

June 24

STUDENTS SCORE AT SKILLSUSA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

OTC students earned more medals at the 58th annual SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference in Atlanta, Georgia. Parker Lawson earned a gold medal for advertising design. Another gold medal went to Nylah Tay Rogers for computer programming. Eric Fausto won a silver medal for technical drafting. Five other OTC students earned national recognition at the event.

June 27

COLLEGE FAMILIES ENJOY SECOND OTC WEEKEND AT THE ZOO

Students and employees received free admission to the Dickerson Park Zoo for the second annual OTC Weekend at the Zoo. The college partners with the zoo on its eagle conservation exhibit.



June 6

NO-COST, SHORT-TERM TRAINING RETURNS

With the unemployment rate in Greene County at less than 2% and employers citing a lack of skilled workers as the most significant barrier to expanding employment, OTC again offered short-term training courses over the summer. The college waived tuition for students in welding, heating and air, masonry and construction courses.





June 28

FIRST NSF GRANT SUPPORTS NEW AUTOMATION AND ROBOTICS PROGRAM

OTC received a \$345,725 grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) for its new automation and robotics program, which debuted in August at the Robert W. Plaster Center for Advanced Manufacturing. The NSF's Advanced Technological Education program, which focuses on training technicians in advanced technology fields, funded the grant. This is the first National Science Foundation grant awarded to the college.



July 14

GOVERNOR MIKE PARSON SIGNS IMPROVED FAST TRACK LEGISLATION

Governor Mike Parson signed updated legislation for the Fast Track Workforce Incentive Grant. The new legislation improves the program, designed to cover college costs for students over 25 pursuing degrees in high-demand careers. In fall 2022, OTC had 111 students enrolled in the program.



July 1

CHANCELLOR HIGDON MARKS 16 YEARS AT OTC

Hired in July 2006 to succeed the college's first president, Dr. Norman K. Myers, Dr. Hal Higdson has now surpassed Dr. Myers as OTC's longest-serving leader.

July 7

GOVERNOR MIKE PARSON VISITS OTC

Governor Mike Parson visited OTC to talk about public safety efforts around the state. He was joined by Springfield's Mayor Ken McClure and Police Chief Paul Williams, State Director of Public Safety Sandy Karsten and OTC Provost Tracy McGrady.

August 1

ROOTED MISSOURI HONORS ITS ADVISORS

At its inaugural state conference, rootEd Missouri named Nancy Strothmann of Cape Girardeau as Advisor of the Year. Two other advisors were recognized for bringing educational opportunities to rural students. Jill Gantz of Crest Ridge High School received the Innovation Award, and Rachelle Brown of Ava was selected for the 110% Award.

OTC is rootEd's partner in Missouri to place counselors in at least 135 high schools to improve postsecondary outcomes for rural students.

OTC UNVEILS THE ROBERT W. PLASTER CENTER FOR ADVANCED MANUFACTURING

The college unveiled the Robert W. Plaster Center for Advanced Manufacturing (PMC) to the public with a highly anticipated grand opening event on Aug. 15.

The \$40 million, 120,000-square-foot facility is home to seven of the college's technical training programs:

- Automation and Robotics**
- Cybersecurity**
- Drafting and Design Technology**
- Information Technology Infrastructure**
- Manufacturing Technology**
- Mechatronics**
- Precision Machining Technology**

The state of Missouri contributed \$12 million to the center. More than 100 institutions and individuals also contributed to the largest building project in the college's history. Their names are prominently featured on the donor wall at the main entrance to the building.



OTC HOSTS GOOD MORNING, SPRINGFIELD IN PMC

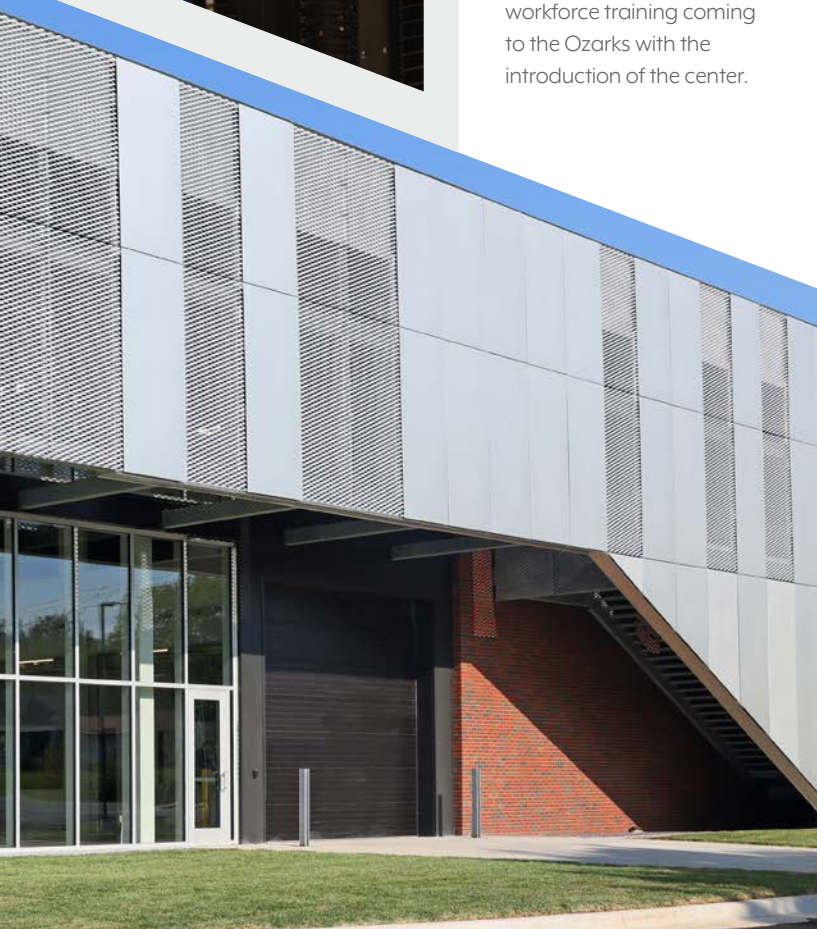
The Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce hosted its August Good Morning, Springfield event at the Robert W. Plaster Center for Advanced Manufacturing (PMC). Around 400 people received a sneak peek of the PMC's high bay space while they listened to Springfield Public Schools Superintendent Grenita Lathan deliver the State of the Schools address.





PMC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR IS ONE OF SBJ'S 12 PEOPLE YOU NEED TO KNOW

Robert Randolph, executive director of the Robert W. Plaster Center for Advanced Manufacturing, was one of the Springfield Business Journal's (SBJ) "12 People You Need to Know." During his interview with SBJ's Eric Olson, Randolph spoke about the revolution in workforce training coming to the Ozarks with the introduction of the center.



'22 YEAR IN REVIEW



DONORS GET A FIRST LOOK AT THE PMC

Individuals and organizations who donated to the Robert W. Plaster Center for Advanced Manufacturing received a first look at the 120,000-square-foot facility. The preview introduced donors to the new facility and its programs.

MAJOR DONORS

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| American National | SMC Packaging Group |
| AmProd, LLC | Larry and Donna Snyder |
| Arvest Bank | SRC Holdings Corporation |
| Central Bank of the Ozarks | The Sunderland Foundation |
| Commerce Bank | Trane Technologies |
| Custom Metalcraft | Vital Farms |
| The Durham Company | |
| Emerson | |
| FORVIS | |
| Gene Haas Foundation | |
| Great Southern Bank | |
| Jim Jenkins | |
| The Gentry Family | |
| Legacy Bank and Trust | |
| Michael and Katie Meek | |
| James and Catherine Moore | |
| National Science Foundation | |
| O'Reilly Auto Parts, Inc. | |
| Robert W. Plaster Foundation | |
| Rick's Automotive, Inc. | |
| Chip and Silvia Sheppard | |





August 23

OTC MIDDLE COLLEGE MARKS 15 YEARS

The 2022-23 school year marks the fifteenth year of operation for OTC Middle College. In 2007, Springfield Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Norm Ridder approached then-new OTC Chancellor Dr. Hal Higdon with an idea to lower the high school dropout rate and help credit-deficient students get back on track. The Middle College at OTC debuted a year later.

The program allows juniors and seniors in high school to leave their home "sending" schools and attend OTC full-time. While the Middle College was born out of a need to help students who might be at risk of dropping out, the program has morphed into a "choice" program for many students who want a jump-start on college.

"We still serve that original population of students who need to get back on track to graduate from high school," said Dr. Tiffany Brunner, OTC Middle College director. "But, now we have students ready for a full-time college experience."

Instead of a high school schedule where students attend classes at prescribed times, Middle College students take a mixture of high school and college courses throughout the day with free time in between. In 2019, four Middle College students achieved a significant milestone when they graduated from the Middle College, having earned their high school diploma and associate degree simultaneously.

"Those students worked incredibly hard and became pioneers in achieving both credentials simultaneously," Brunner said.

This year, out of the 150 students enrolled in Middle college, 20 are on track to earn their associate degree. One of those students is former Parkview student Taylor Swickard.

"It has been a great fit. I am being pushed more than I have in a long time, and that is a great feeling," she said. "It is a healthy push."

Besides Springfield, Ash Grove, Clever, Everton, Nixa, Republic, Rogersville and Sparta send students to the Middle College. The price is right for students, who pay a flat \$60 fee per year. All other costs are supplied by their sending schools.



August 22

CUSTOMIZING APPRENTICE TRAINING

To train and recruit employees, Advanced Concrete Technology, Inc. and Donco 3 Construction joined forces for an apprenticeship program through OTC.

Students are hired and made employees from day one, and the apprentices receive training through the college over three years. The workers will receive a nationally recognized certificate at the end of the apprenticeships.

September 1

VETERANS UPWARD BOUND EXPANDS REACH

OTC's Veterans Upward Bound (VUB) program can now serve veterans in 15 Missouri counties. The U.S. Department of

Education renewed OTC's Federal TRIO Grant for an additional five years at \$1.4 million. The initial grant in 2017 established a VUB program to assist Greene County veterans with their pursuit of postsecondary education. With the grant renewal, the VUB may now assist veterans living anywhere in Southwest Missouri.

September 11

STUDENTS CAN'T RESIST THE FALL BALL

OTC students proved they love to get together "in real life" when they gathered for the Fall Ball dance during the first month of the school year. The event allowed students to socialize and enjoy college outside of the classroom.

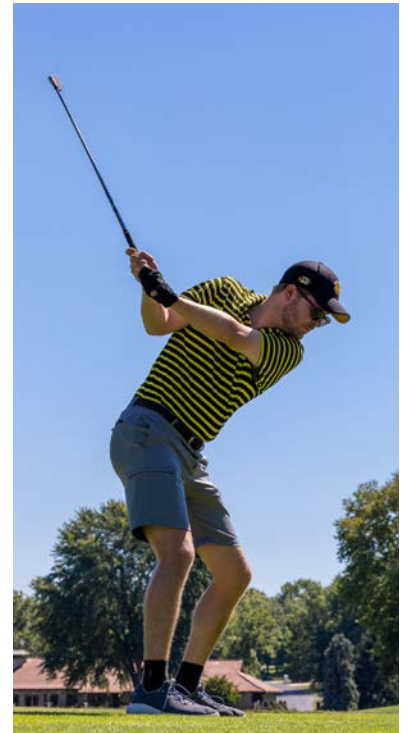




September 25

FALL PICNICS PACKED WITH FUN

Student life took center stage at the end of September for the bi-annual student picnics. Each OTC location hosted free food and activities for students and the community.



September 19

OTC FOUNDATION GOLF TOURNAMENT SUPPORTS STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

The 16th annual OTC Foundation Golf Tournament drew 124 golfers to Hickory Hills Country Club in Springfield. The event raised more than \$46,000 to fund student scholarships.



October 6

NETWORKING EVENT MATCHES MANUFACTURING STUDENTS WITH EMPLOYERS

On the eve of National Manufacturing Day, the Plaster Manufacturing Center hosted a rapid networking event for students in the college's manufacturing programs, including drafting and design, precision machining and robotics.

The nearly two dozen employers in attendance met with small groups of students to tell them about their companies. Around 150 students attended the event, with many receiving job offers that day.



October 4

OTC FOUNDATION CONTINUES ANNUAL SOCK STAR CAMPAIGN

Sock Stars are identified by their colorful blue and yellow hosiery featuring OTC's mascot, Ozzy the Eagle. This year, the foundation distributed more than 100 pairs of colorful socks as thank you gifts to donors. The campaign raised more than \$4,000 to support the student emergency fund.

October 8

CAR AND MOTORCYCLE SHOW BENEFITS SKILLS USA

The OTC parking lot was filled with more than 100 vintage and modern cars, trucks and motorcycles for the annual OTC Car and Motorcycle Show. Proceeds from the event support students who attend the SkillsUSA competition for career and technical education.



October 4

EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION AWARDS PRESENTED

OTC unveiled its 2022 Excellence in Education Award recipients on College Development Day. Sarah Bargo earned the Excellence in Education Award for Administration. Jason Rader received the Full-Time Instructor Award. The Part-Time Staff Award went to Crystal Adams. The Adjunct Instructor Award went to Misty Tollett. Denise Douglass received the Full-Time Staff Award.



October 8

FUN RUN ADDS FALL FESTIVAL AT OTC RICHWOOD VALLEY

The Richwood Valley campus hosted runners and chili lovers for a fall festival. The evening kicked off with a five-kilometer run to support scholarships for the Physical Therapist Assistant Program. Following the race, the Agriculture Program served up chili around a bonfire while attendees enjoyed live music.



October 13

TECHNICAL EDUCATION DIVISION HOSTS EXPLORE OTC EVENT

Sophomores from area high schools converged on the Springfield campus for Explore OTC, an event designed to introduce them to college.

The nearly 1,000 attendees learned about the Career Center and Middle College — programs that allow high school juniors and seniors to attend OTC and earn college credit while still in high school.

October 26

PMC HOSTS ECONOMIC GROWTH FORUM

The Robert W. Plaster Center for Advanced Manufacturing was the venue for the Springfield Business Journal's Economic Growth Forum. The event featured a panel of education and employment specialists and guests who spoke about workforce development and placemaking in the Ozarks.



October 28

I-CREATE COMES TO THE COLLEGE

Around 1,000 high school juniors from Southwest Missouri visited the Plaster Manufacturing Center for I-Create. The event was a joint effort between the Missouri Association of Manufacturers and the Missouri Job Center. Students spent the day experiencing the manufacturing industry through an interactive showcase.

November 4

CHANCELLOR HIGDON NAMED *BIZ* 417'S PERSON OF THE YEAR

On the heels of the Plaster Manufacturing Center's debut, the local business magazine "Biz 417" named OTC Chancellor Dr. Hal Higdon its 2022 Person of the Year. The article highlighted the college's unprecedented growth during Dr. Higdon's 16-year tenure. Since becoming OTC's CEO, Dr. Higdon has led OTC's expansion into new communities, grown the endowment and increased the college's tax base.





November 10

FLY SPS TAKES OFF

In a partnership with Springfield Public Schools (SPS), OTC expanded its pilot training program to include high school students. Beginning in the fall of 2023, 10 SPS juniors, two from each high school, will have the opportunity to enroll in the college's aviation program. Students will earn their private pilot's license and study more advanced aviation skills.

November 9

PTK INDUCTS NEW MEMBERS

OTC's chapter of Phi Theta Kappa (PTK), the international honor society for two-year colleges, welcomed new students into its ranks in a ceremony at the Gillioz Theatre.

November 11

THE COLLEGE HONORS STUDENT VETERANS

At the college's annual Veterans Day ceremony, the Sons of the American Revolution presented the colors and OTC Trustee J. Howard Fisk presented Nathan Summerfield with the 2022 Outstanding Student Veteran Award. In a moving tribute to veterans, the OTC Concert Choir sang, and OTC Instructor Philip Forrester played "Taps."



November 17

FINE ARTS AND HUMANITIES DEPARTMENT PRESENTS "I AND YOU"

The college's fine arts and humanities department staged its first play with an in-person audience since the pandemic canceled live performances. "I and You" is an ode to youth, life, love and the strange beauty of human connectedness.



November 9

ALUMNA EARNS RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

Trisha Tindall, a 2022 Ozarks Technical Community College graduate, was awarded a fellowship from the American Respiratory Care Foundation (ARCF) for research on ventilators and neonatal patients.

November 10

OTC NAMED DEVELOPER OF THE YEAR

The Springfield Contractors Association (SCA) named OTC its Developer of the Year for planning and constructing the \$40 million Robert W. Plaster Center for Advanced Manufacturing. SCA President Mark Gambon presented the award.



December 13

JAZZ BAND DEBUTS

The OTC Jazz Band debuted at the OTC Fine Arts winter concert at Drury University's Stone Chapel. The college's concert choir also performed at the "Winter Joy" event. The Jazz Band was made possible by a Game Changer grant awarded through the Innovation Celebration.

December 1

ESPORTS TRIUMPHS IN FIRST SEASON

Our first season of esports far exceeded expectations. That's the assessment of the college's esports advisor, Dr. Tiffany Ford.

"We definitely had more students than we expected," Dr. Ford said. "The competitive esports team is as large as we can manage right now."

Esports launched at the college in the spring of 2022 when the gaming arena debuted at the Springfield campus, and the team began competitions in the fall semester. OTC fielded teams in four games.

- Rocket League – soccer with cars.
- Valorant – a five-versus-five first-person shooter game.
- Super Smash Brothers – a one-on-one cartoon-based fighting game.
- League of Legends – a five-versus-five capture-the-flag competition.

In some games, OTC had three teams competing at different skill levels against other colleges. Two teams even qualified for the playoffs, but that wasn't the primary goal when the college decided to offer the student activity.

"We emphasized fun first, winning second," Ford said. "It's just been amazing watching these kids grow. We knew we had some talented players, but they did not know how to work together as a team. They grew team-building and communication skills throughout the season."

For Tyson Mead, a first-year OTC student from Willard on the Valorant team, the connections he made extended far beyond the games.

"The social aspect is amazing. When you bring people together with a common interest, the bond you make is incredible," Tyson said. "Next summer, I'm going to be roommates with one of my teammates. Another person I met through esports got me a job. Having people under one banner unites them."

Tyson is studying computer information science and has a full-time job at Amazon. When he started school, Tyson planned to become a programmer, but now his career aspiration is to be an esports coach.

Like Tyson, Joey Powers switched career goals after joining the esports team. Joey started at OTC in 2021 as a culinary student but changed his major to computer science once he became involved with esports. Joey was on the Super Smash Brothers team and, just like a football or basketball team, he and his teammates review videos of their previous matches to analyze their strategies.

"We would practice every Thursday for three-to-four hours. Part of practice was watching a replay of our last match," Joey said. "By reviewing how we played, we really improved."

Besides the 39 esports team members, nearly 500 other students have used the esports arena to play games between classes or meet up with friends for group play.

Everything starts fresh in the spring with a brand-new season, and Ford is optimistic, "We're only going up from here. Spring will be even better."



STUDENT **SPOTLIGHT**



Tyler Kahler

Launching a New Career

Tyler Kahler spent years helping other people, but at OTC, he received a little help from his college.

Tyler spent the early part of his working life as a paramedic in southern California. On October 1, 2017, Tyler was off-duty when he attended the Route 91 Harvest music festival in Las Vegas.

"The sound of gunfire is pretty easy for me to pick up on," Tyler said. "I knew the shots weren't fireworks."

The gunfire Tyler heard was the more than 1,000 shots fired by a gunman on the 32nd floor of the Mandalay Bay Hotel. The infamous shooting killed 60 people and wounded 413. Tyler began herding his group of friends out of the festival and back to the hotel. When Tyler got his friends to safety, he returned to the music festival.

"When I got to the main entrance, people were injured just from trying to get out," Tyler said.

He spent Sunday night into Monday morning treating the hundreds of people injured in the shooting.

Tyler always thought he might shift careers and become a chef. He wanted to attend the Culinary Institute of America, but on a trip to visit his father in Southwest Missouri, his dad told him to check out OTC. By January 2020, Tyler had enrolled in the college's culinary program.

He was attending college full time, working as a culinary assistant at the college and bartending. Then, in December 2021, about a week shy of the end of the semester and his graduation, "I decided to see how many somersaults my car

could do," Tyler joked. "The answer is two, and then you get caught in a tree."

Tyler was seriously hurt with several fractures and a lengthy rehabilitation in front of him. His culinary career was on hold while he recovered. A few months after his accident, Tyler stopped by the college to visit some friends, including the Director of Student Engagement, Vicki MacDonald. Vicki also teaches a bartending and beverage course for OTC, and Tyler had been one of her students.

"Tyler couldn't use his left arm so he couldn't work in the culinary field," Vicki said. "I told him I would hire him as a student ambassador to give tours. He was great. The other ambassadors looked up to him."

Tyler earned his degree and worked as a student ambassador through the end of the spring semester. Now recovered, Tyler is a line cook at Retro Metro restaurant in Springfield. While cooking is a far cry from Tyler's days as a paramedic, he still draws on that experience in his new line of work.

"As a paramedic, I'd check my rig when I showed up for work. Also, you have to manage your time.

Do things of the highest importance first," Tyler said. "Now, when I enter the restaurant, I check my station and do my vegetable prep. I focus on the most important tasks when we're slammed in the kitchen."

Tyler is still determining whether he'll stay in the Ozarks forever or go off on another adventure. Either way, the 36-year-old says he's glad he chose to attend OTC.

"The campus, facilities and equipment were all excellent, and I never met an employee I didn't like," Tyler said. "I couldn't have had a better experience."



The campus, facilities and equipment were all excellent, and I never met an employee I didn't like... I couldn't have had a better experience."

Emonn Ray

Hands-on Success

If you Google “Famous high school dropouts,” the names of celebrities like Harry Styles, Ryan Gosling and Drew Barrymore come up. But most high school dropouts don’t become movie stars or pop singers. In fact, high school dropouts are twice as likely to live below the poverty level than high school graduates.

Having lived for several years as a high school dropout, Emonn Ray received her high school equivalency diploma from OTC and eventually her associate degree in drafting and design. Now, she’s a college graduate and working as a drafter at Springfield’s Ireland Architects.

Emonn was born in Springfield, but she and her family moved to Florida when Emonn was three. She returned more than a decade later to start high school and, as Emonn puts it, “Life happened.” Emonn dropped out of school, but not before she fed her love for construction by learning some carpentry and masonry skills through OTC’s Career Center for high school students.

“I’ve always been a huge fan of HGTV,” Emonn said. “I love watching shows like ‘Fixer Upper’ and ‘Property Brothers.’ I’ve always had an interest in building and remodeling.”

After dropping out of high school, Emonn worked several different types of jobs in warehouses, food service, hospitality and with temporary employment agencies. Then, one day, “I woke up and just decided I wanted more. I was tired of working jobs I absolutely detested. I wanted a career, and I knew in order to have a career I would need to go back to school.”

In 2018, Emonn came to OTC to receive her high school equivalency diploma, but that was just the beginning of her educational journey.

“After getting my high school diploma, I realized I could do a lot more. It gave me the motivation to do more,” Emonn said.

Emonn’s computer features a sticker that says, “Words. Actions.” Emonn took that message to heart and took action by enrolling in OTC’s drafting and design technology program in

the spring of 2019. She took 21 hours, which is a huge course load for someone working full-time. During that first semester, as an assignment in her English 101 course, Emonn was introduced to the author, podcaster and social work professor Brene Brown.

“Listening to those TED Talks made me realize that it’s okay to be vulnerable,” Emonn said. “I always let my fear hold me back. I realized that it’s okay to be scared, but you can’t let it stop you.”

Emonn didn’t stop and she graduated in May 2022, but before she graduated, her instructor Rene Wade encouraged her to apply for a position at Ireland Architects.

“Emonn was a hard worker, but she lacked confidence. I knew she’d be an exemplary drafter,” Wade said. “When Stephanie (Ireland) came to me asking for someone to hire, I immediately thought of Emonn.”

Emonn credits OTC with preparing her to be successful on the job. Not only did she learn how to work on all of the drafting software she uses at Ireland Architects she also learned soft skills like file management, professional communication skills and even something as simple as showing up on time. Those lessons in professionalism may have helped Emonn swim against the professional currents flowing against her in the drafting and design profession. Fewer than a fifth of drafting professionals are women, and barely three percent are African-American, so Emonn represents two under-represented populations in her chosen profession.

“I didn’t want a career typically associated with women. I wanted to challenge myself,” Emonn said. “Being the only African-American female in my classes just made me work harder.”

Emonn was 17 years old when she dropped out of high school. Now 28, she has more than a decade of life and accomplishments at her back and the wisdom that comes from experience.

“Your mistakes don’t define who you are,” Emonn said. “I tell my teenage sister all the time, ‘Always try to do better and be the best person you can be.’”



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

*I woke up and
just decided I
wanted more."*



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Dee and Shane King

Two Generations of Eagles

Fewer than two percent of teenage mothers graduate college by age 30. When Dee King heard that statistic, she knew she couldn't do anything about being a teen mom, but she was determined not to become a part of the 98%.

Her son, Shane, was born in Dee's hometown of Missoula, Montana, just before Christmas, during her first year at the University of Montana.

"Shane was a surprise, but the best surprise of my life," Dee said. "Getting pregnant at 18 wasn't the plan, but it gave me the deep motivation I wouldn't have had otherwise."

Looking for a fresh start, 19-year-old Dee and her infant son moved to Springfield in 2002, where Dee's grandmother had attended Missouri State when it was a teacher's college. They had family connections in town, but Dee and Shane lived independently. Dee worked remotely for her father's law firm in Montana, doing legal assistant work and attending OTC part-time.

"I felt like the whole vibe at OTC was supportive and encouraging," Dee said. "If Shane got sick and I couldn't make it in to take a test or something, my instructors would make accommodations so I could keep moving forward with my education."

Dee eventually transferred to Missouri State, where she earned a bachelor's in business. She worked in the hotel and banking business until recently, landing at Burrell Behavioral Health as the chief of staff.

"In my role, I talk to many state government officials, and anytime I mention that I'm from Springfield, they mention OTC," Dee said. "I feel that OTC is best in class for our area and has a lot of respect in the state."

And now, a couple of decades after his mom walked through the doors at OTC for the first time, Shane King is wrapping up his welding degree.

"What I like about OTC is it's allowed me to try and truly experience welding," Shane said. "I'm in the A+ Scholarship Program, so the financial risk is minimal, and I'm able to see if I want to pursue welding for a career."


Shane has experienced the same personal care his mom did at OTC. One of Shane's instructors helped him get a job at Holloway America, where he worked about 55 hours a week over the summer. After OTC, Shane plans to transfer to MSU to earn a

bachelor's degree. He may not work in a welding shop forever, but Shane intends to wield a torch for the rest of his life.

"I have a Mustang, and I'm building an exhaust system for it," Shane said. "I might study entrepreneurship and start a business fabricating car parts and other products."

Now, this multi-generational OTC family sings the praises of their alma mater to whoever will listen.

"When I was in school, my public speaking teacher was so proud to teach at OTC," Dee said. "I remember thinking, 'I'm getting a super high-quality education, smaller class sizes and I'm proud to be here.' I feel like there's a lot of Springfield pride around OTC."



I felt like the whole vibe at OTC was supportive and encouraging... If Shane got sick and I couldn't make it in to take a test or something, my instructors would make accommodations so I could keep moving forward with my education."

Stephanie Blake and Jade Campbell

Classroom to Career

Many people can recall a classmate who turned every notebook, folder or handout from the teacher into an art project. Those serial doodlers viewed any blank space as an unfilled canvas ready to be adorned with flowers, cartoon characters, animals and geometric patterns. American authors Jack Kerouac and Mark Twain were well-known doodlers, and archivists have even found drawings on President Dwight D. Eisenhower's meeting notes. Teachers may interpret a student's doodling as disinterest, a lack of attention or irreverence, but in the case of OTC student Jayde Campbell, doodling in class led to a job with one of her teachers.

"I got in a lot of trouble with a lot of teachers," Jayde said. "One of my old teachers said I wouldn't go anywhere if I kept doodling."

Where one teacher saw graffiti, OTC Science Instructor Stephanie Blake had a different interpretation of Jayde's in-class etchings.

"When I first had Jayde in a Middle College class, I noticed that she was an outstanding artist," Stephanie said. "She was always doodling. That was how she kept track of her thoughts."

Stephanie encouraged Jayde to become a science illustrator, but she was just in high school and did not pursue a professional art career.

"I'd heard the term starving artist, so I decided to follow in my mom's footsteps and go into nursing," Jayde said.

A few semesters passed and Jayde, now a pre-nursing student, found herself back in a Stephanie Blake-taught anatomy class in the spring of 2022. To help herself memorize the muscles and bones, Jayde

would create bold, colorful drawings.

"I drew things in a way that helped me process the information," Jayde said. "So many of the illustrations in the textbook could be confusing."

Jayde's classmates noticed her simpler, vibrant drawings and asked Jayde for copies so they could use them to study, too. Stephanie took notice, and it led to an opportunity.

In the years while Jayde had been in other classes, Stephanie's educational content company

GradeStrides had taken off. Stephanie and her collaborators produce course guidebooks with math and science activities and labs using everyday materials around the house. While the books can be used in any academic setting, they are particularly popular with online students, homeschoolers and four-day-a-week schools. Stephanie

was creating an anatomy and physiology book and needed an illustrator. Jayde's drawings were a perfect match.

"Jayde had my anatomy class in the spring of 2022, and her pictures were just so striking," Stephanie said. "I was looking for an illustrator to finish this anatomy and physiology book, and I thought, 'Her stuff is super different. It's so unique. That's what I want.' So, I approached her about joining forces, and away we went."

Jayde still wants to become a nurse, but she's using health sciences education and her passion for art to make a living. Something no one ever thought she would do — including Jayde. Now, Jayde is working hard to complete 35 drawings for the first edition of the anatomy and physiology book Stephanie hopes to have published this summer.

"I never thought I'd make money from drawing," Jayde said. "This is an opportunity I never saw coming. It's unbelievable."



I was looking for an illustrator to finish this anatomy and physiology book, and I thought, 'Her stuff is super different. It's so unique. That's what I want.'



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



THE ANN B. ZEKAUSKAS FAMILY FOUNDATION, INC.

If you have ever felt your mouth water while watching a food or restaurant commercial, then you've been influenced by Ann Zekauskas' legacy. A pioneer in the food stylist industry, Ann had a passion for good food, nutrition and education. In 2022, the Ann B. Zekauskas Family Foundation, Inc., surprised the Ozarks Technical Community College Foundation with an unexpected gift to support the college's culinary arts program.

"My Aunt Ann was always into proper nutrition. She would often give parents a hard time on a subway or a bus stop for feeding their kids junk food," said John Akscin, Ann's nephew and a board member of her foundation. "She firmly believed in proper nutrition because it would yield long-term benefits."

Born to Lithuanian immigrant parents in Pennsylvania, Ann attended Penn State University and received a degree in home economics in 1950. After college, Ann worked in the Betty Crocker kitchens, and even appears in one of the photos in Betty Crocker's classic cookbook. In the early '50s, television was coming into its own as a communications industry, and Ann saw an opportunity.

"She started working in television to understand the technology. Then, she got the bright idea that commercial TV is coming and advertising is big," John said. "She found a way to carve out a niche in food advertisements."

Ann created the first Hidden Valley Ranch salad dressing commercials, which feature the iconic condiment drizzled over bowls of immaculate vegetables. One winter, John was staying in New York City and working for his aunt. Ann was in Vermont at the time to shoot a commercial for Hidden Valley. Ann had ordered cherry tomatoes from Holland (it was winter in the northeast, and tomatoes were hard to come by), and John was supposed to get them from the local grocer and drive them to Vermont for the commercial. The grocer Ann used to order the tomatoes had accidentally sold them.

"He sold them to John F. Kennedy's widow, Jackie Onassis," John said. "My aunt called and asked where her tomatoes were. I explained the situation, and she told me to get tough and get her tomatoes back."

John worked with the grocer to retrieve the tomatoes from the American icon and rush them to Vermont, where they were hung on tomato plants with Christmas tree hooks for the commercial.

One of seven children, Ann learned about the importance of education from a young age. The message sank in because she and her six siblings all placed high importance on advanced education for themselves and their families. Ann never married and had no children, but she raised a niece and two nephews after her sister and brother-in-law died. Ann moved them to New York and instilled the same emphasis on education she had received growing up. One of those nieces, Elizabeth Ann Corley, is an attorney and the president of Ann's foundation.

A New York native, John attended St. Louis University and is now retired at the Lake of the Ozarks after a successful career in the health care industry. Now, John works with his fellow trustees and family members to carry out Ann's wishes.

"Before she died in 2014, my Aunt Ann stipulated that she wanted all of her assets to establish a foundation to support the education of young people in proper nutrition and culinary arts," John said. "When I heard about OTC, I told fellow trustees Elizabeth Ann Corley and Susan Chernesky Koger what you're doing in training future chefs. We knew OTC would be a good fit for our foundation."





LOCAL RESOURCES, LOCAL SUCCESS

Herschend Entertainment owns amusement properties all over North America, but its roots and founders are firmly planted in the Branson area. Jack and Peter Herschend founded Silver Dollar City in 1960, and for most of the company's first 50 years, Jack Herschend was the company's President, Chairman and CEO. Despite his success and the success of his businesses, something was gnawing at him.

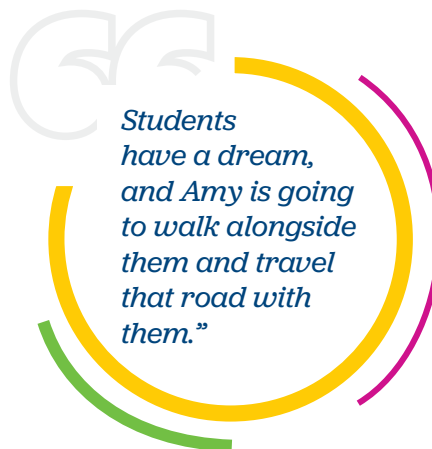
"One in four families in Stone and Taney counties live in poverty," Jack said. "For years, I've been involved in meetings and discussions about fighting poverty. We all felt good after the meetings, but the situation wasn't improving."

Fighting poverty in Stone and Taney counties is Herschend's passion. Jack says he wanted to move "from enabling people to empowering people," and he figured education was the best way to empower people to improve their lives.

In 2020, Jack visited Ozarks Technical Community College's Table Rock Campus in Hollister to see how he could become involved philanthropically. Immediately, the campus president talked to him about backing a building.

"He told me, 'Buildings don't move people out of poverty,'" OTC Table Rock President Rob Griffith recalls with a laugh. "I agreed and talked to him about funding a social worker."

Jack liked that idea, and thanks to his generosity, the OTC Table Rock Campus added a community resource specialist.



In 2021, the college adopted the OTC Cares guiding philosophy, which states that all decisions at the college must be:

- Student-centered
- Data-informed
- Proactive
- Holistic

The community resource specialist brings "holistic" to life by counseling students and connecting them to resources for challenges that may keep them from succeeding in the classroom. OTC Table Rock already had a staff member who was ready to fill that role.

Amy Donovan-Munier is a Branson-area native who attended OTC and even took

an English class from Griffith in 2006. Amy eventually graduated from OTC, earned a bachelor's from Missouri State and worked at the Table Rock campus in student accounts. A few years ago, Amy decided to pursue a master's degree in social work at Missouri State while working part-time at OTC.

"After starting my master's, I told Rob we need someone at OTC to work with these students who are struggling," Amy said.

The timing was perfect for Jack's investment and Amy's graduation — she started as Table Rock's full-time community resource specialist in March of 2022. Now, when students face challenges outside the classroom, they go see Amy.

"We've all heard about the mental health epidemic for people in their teens and early twenties, and I'm seeing that," Amy said. "But we also have students struggling with food insecurity, homelessness and domestic violence."

With Amy's help, they are connected to counseling, food pantries, emergency housing and shelters. The idea is to give students a boost over the hurdles life keeps putting in their way so they can get to the finish line.

"Students have a dream, and Amy is going to walk alongside them and travel that road with them," Jack said. "That's empowering, and that's exciting to me."

Thank You

We would like to extend a special thanks to those who support students and programs at OTC by contributing to the OTC Foundation. Your generosity helps provide education, job training and lifelong learning to countless students.

Gifts and pledges received between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 2022, are included in this report.



LEGACY SOCIETY

Friends of OTC who remember the OTC Foundation through a bequest or other type of planned gift become members of the Legacy Society.

Mike and Judy Breeding
Alden and Dolores Brooks*
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Adam Blair
Bruce Bloxom
Adi Bosch
Will and Kristin Bowers
Rodney Boyer
Trixie Braden
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FAMILY AND FRIENDS REMEMBER LINDA JOHNS

Linda Joyner Johns was a beloved friend and OTC colleague who showed the utmost passion for higher education and serving students before her passing in 2022.

Linda married the love of her life, Jeff Johns, in 1991, and in 1995 began her favorite and most rewarding role as a stay-at-home mom, caring for her daughter Lyndsey and son Daniel. As a mother, she shared her encouragement, loving spirit, sense of humor and, most importantly, love for the Lord. Linda loved hiking, capturing nature with her camera at national parks and lying on the beach during family vacations. Spending time with her family was always a priority.

In 2007, Linda began working in OTC's Financial Aid Department, eventually

advancing to Director of State and Institutional Programs. She worked tirelessly to help students by finding scholarships, grants and other resources to help make college affordable.

Linda is incredibly missed, but her legacy lives on through those inspired by her example and in the lives of students impacted by the Linda Joyner Johns Memorial Scholarship. Her family, friends and coworkers established the scholarship fund to help address students' financial needs. The scholarship targets students facing challenges including housing insecurity, incarceration and single parenthood.

Future OTC students who are yet to be born will benefit from Linda's kind spirit and the generosity she inspired.



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Many special scholarships have been established through the OTC Foundation. Some are in memory of individuals. Others are funded by generous businesses, organizations and individuals in our communities.

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Gifts to honor or remember outstanding individuals are a special way to pay tribute to a friend or loved one. The following donors made contributions to the OTC Foundation in honor or in memory of someone special.

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OTC FOUNDATION REPORT

2022 SNAPSHOT

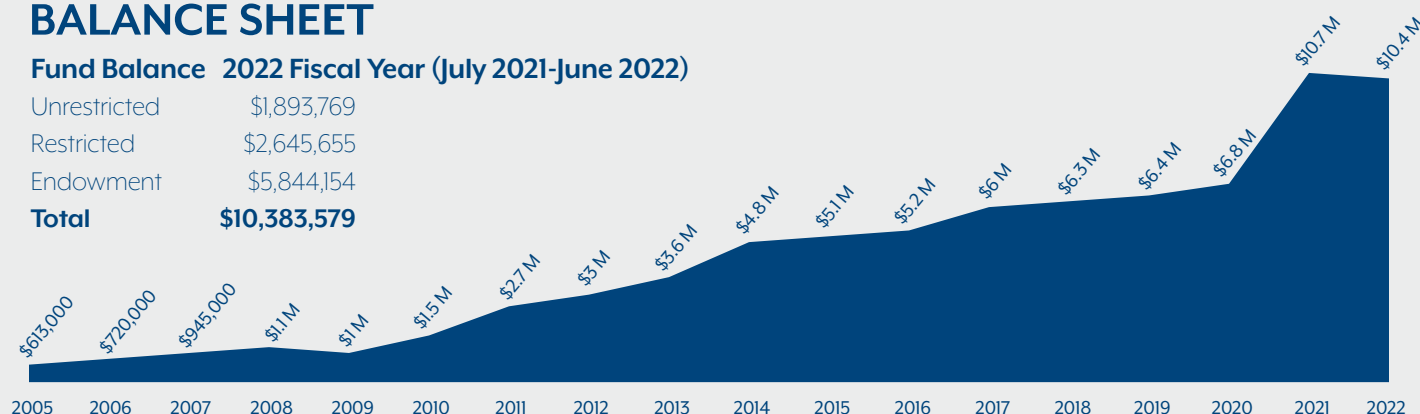
- The OTC Foundation and our supporters believe every student
- should have access to higher education and a brighter future.
- We invest in student success because we know an educated
- community is a thriving community. With your help, we can
- continue this essential work.



BALANCE SHEET

Fund Balance 2022 Fiscal Year (July 2021-June 2022)

Unrestricted	\$1,893,769
Restricted	\$2,645,655
Endowment	\$5,844,154
Total	\$10,383,579



\$46,119
GOLF TOURNAMENT
PROCEEDS

47 MAJOR
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\$64,927
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To learn more about how we can align your passion with OTC's mission, contact the OTC Foundation at 417-447-2651 or foundation@otc.edu.

OTC Foundation



I was so proud to be a part of OTC in 2022. The college worked incredibly hard to open the Robert W. Plaster Center for Advanced Manufacturing (PMC). Getting it ready meant there were employees working nights and weekends, and everyone picked up brooms and mops to make sure the building was spotless for the grand opening. The PMC was delivered as promised thanks to sweat and hard work. Congratulations, OTC."

— Paul Sundy
Chair, OTC Board of Trustees

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